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operatively connected to said blade; and

a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley is tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod operatively coupled to said pulley, a member coupled to and movable along said rod, a spring that exerts a reactive force against said member when said member is moved in a first direction along said rod, and a spacer which interacts with said member to limit advancement of said member in said first direction, wherein said spacer slidably receives said rod therethrough.

30. (Amended) A slicer comprising:

a slicer body;

a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;

a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;

a motor for driving said blade, said motor being pivotable and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade; and

a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley being tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod operatively coupled to said pulley, a member coupled to and movable along said rod, a spring component that exerts a reactive force against said member when said member is moved in a first direction along said rod, said spring component being compressed in a direction parallel to the movement of said member when said member is moved in said first direction to exert said reactive force, and a spacer which interacts with said member to limit advancement of said member in said first direction.

Cancel claim 14 without prejudice.

#### **Remarks**

The drawings and specification have been amended and claims 19, 21, 22, 28 and 30 have been amended. Claim 14 has been cancelled. Copies of the amended portions of the

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specification and the amended claims illustrating the changes thereto accompany this amendment. Review and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Figs. 1-3 of the drawings are objected to due to the presence of bordering and a legend. However, in the applicant's previous amendment mailed on September 20, 2002, new Figs. 1-3, which do not include the bordering and the legend, were submitted. Although the Office action indicates that Fig. 9 previously submitted by applicant has not been entered, the Office action does not indicate that Figs. 1-3 have not been entered, and does not provide any reason why Figs. 1-3 have not been entered. Accordingly, assuming that Figs. 1-3 have been entered, it is requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn. Alternately, copies of substitute Figs. 1-3 accompany this Amendment, and it is requested that substitute Figs. 1-3 now be entered if not previously entered.

The drawings are objected to for failing to disclose the "lever mechanism" of claim 14. Accordingly, claim 14 has been canceled.

The Office action indicates that the proposed drawing correction has been disapproved on the basis that the original disclosure does not support the showing of the lever mechanism shown in Fig. 9. Accordingly, on the assumption that Fig. 9 has not been entered, or is deleted by this Amendment, the specification has been amended to accommodate the cancellation of Fig. 9.

The Office action indicates that the drawings are objected to for failing to include the reference numbers 90, 92. The specification has been amended to remove those reference numbers.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 on the basis that it is vague and indefinite. However, by this amendment claim 14 has been canceled.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 on the basis that "in a" should read "is a." However, this error was corrected in applicant's previous amendment.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 on the basis that "can be" is vague and indefinite. Accordingly, claim 19 has been amended to address this rejection. Claims 21, 22 28 and 30 have been amended in the same manner.

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Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 on the basis that the phrase “an anchor component” of line 10 is a double inclusion of the same previously recited term. Accordingly, claim 19 has been amended to address this rejection. The Office action indicates that claims 21-22 include substantially the same issue. Claim 21 has been amended to correct a typographical error (changing “an said anchor component” to “and said anchor component”). Claim 22 does not include an anchor component and therefore the alleged error in this claim could not be found.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 on the basis that the phrase “said member an said anchor” is grammatically awkward. Accordingly, claim 21 has been amended to address this grammatical error.

Claim 19 has been amended to specify that the threaded rod is operatively coupled to the motor to further clarify that claim 1 includes indirect couplings between the rod and the motor. Claims 21, 22, 28 and 30 have been similarly amended.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is in a condition for allowance and a formal notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required, including the fee for an extension of time, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 20-0809.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP COPIES OF AMENDED PARAGRAPHS OF SPECIFICATION

Brief Description of the Drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a slicer including the belt tensioning device of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the slicer of Fig. 1, with part of the slicer removed to reveal part of the belt tensioning device of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a partial cutaway bottom view of the slicer of Fig. 1, showing part of the belt tensioning device of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a schematic representation of the belt tensioning device of the present invention, shown in an un-tensioned state;

Fig. 5 is a schematic representation of the device of Fig. 3, shown in a fully tensioned state;

Fig. 6 is a schematic representation of the belt tensioning device of the present invention shown in an alternate location and in its fully tensioned state;

Fig. 7 is an alternate embodiment of the belt tensioning device of the present invention shown in its un-tensioned state; and

Fig. 8 is a perspective, partial cutaway view of a mixer including the belt tensioning device of the present invention[; and

Fig. 9 is a schematic representation of an alternate embodiment of the belt tensioning device of the present invention].

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In an alternate embodiment[, as shown in Fig. 9], the arm 32 may comprise a variety of lever arms (not shown [e.g. 90, 92]) to change the leverage of the arm 32 on the rotation of the motor 20 (and thereby optimize the force on the belt 30), or to change the moment arm ratios in the system. Furthermore, a variety of lever arms may be used to change the rotation of the motor

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20; that is, a lever arm may be provided to rotate the motor in the opposite direction of arrow A when the nut 42 is tightened down.

MARKED-UP COPIES OF AMENDED CLAIMS

19. (Twice Amended) A slicer comprising:

a slicer body having an anchor component;  
a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;  
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;  
a motor for driving said blade, said motor being pivotable and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade; and  
a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley [can be tightened] is tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a threaded rod operatively coupled to said motor, said rod being located adjacent [an] said anchor component, a nut threaded onto said threaded rod, a spring located adjacent said nut that exerts a reactive force against said nut when said nut is threaded in a first direction along said rod to cause said motor to pivot, and a spacer which interacts with said nut and said anchor component to limit advancement of said nut in said first direction, and wherein said anchor component remains fixed when said motor pivots.

21. (Twice Amended) A slicer comprising:

a slicer body having an anchor component;  
a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;  
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;  
a motor for driving said blade, said motor being pivotable and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade; and  
a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley [can be tightened] is tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod operatively coupled to said pulley, a member coupled to and movable along said rod, a spring that exerts a reactive force against said member when said member is moved in a first

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direction along said rod, and a spacer which interacts with said member [an] and said anchor component to limit advancement of said member in said first direction, and wherein said anchor component remains fixed when said motor pivots.

22. (Amended) A slicer comprising:  
a slicer body;  
a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;  
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;  
a motor for driving said blade, said motor being pivotable and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade; and  
a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley [can be tightened] is tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod, an arm operatively coupled to said pulley, said arm being movable along said rod, a spring that exerts a reactive force against said arm when said arm is moved in a first direction along said rod, and a spacer which interacts with said arm to limit advancement of said arm in said first direction.

28. (Amended) A slicer comprising:  
a slicer body;  
a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;  
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;  
a motor for driving said blade, said motor being pivotable and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade; and  
a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley [can be tightened] is tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod operatively coupled to said pulley, a member coupled to and movable along said rod, a spring that exerts a reactive force against said member when said member is moved in a first

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direction along said rod, and a spacer which interacts with said member to limit advancement of said member in said first direction, wherein said spacer slidably receives said rod therethrough.

30. (Amended) A slicer comprising:  
a slicer body;  
a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;  
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;  
a motor for driving said blade, said motor being pivotable and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade; and  
a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley [can be tightened] being tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod operatively coupled to said pulley, a member coupled to and movable along said rod, a spring component that exerts a reactive force against said member when said member is moved in a first direction along said rod, said spring component being compressed in a direction parallel to the movement of said member when said member is moved in said first direction to exert said reactive force, and a spacer which interacts with said member to limit advancement of said member in said first direction.